

**Working together to conserve our desert lands**



**FY04 Accomplishment Report  
& FY05 Five Year Plan  
March 2005**



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## **1.0 Background and Purpose**

The California deserts (Figure 1) include some 100 communities, 2 national parks, 1 national preserve, 6 military bases, 8 counties, 10 state parks, 37 federally recognized Native American Indian tribes, and more than 11 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The 25 million-acre desert region is situated within a day's drive of 40 million people and is a well-known destination for hundreds of thousands of out-of-state visitors each year. It is also the home of many unique wildlife and plant species and contains many outstanding cultural and paleontological resources. In addition, the California deserts are critically important training and testing grounds for the U.S. military.

By 2020 the deserts' permanent population is expected to increase by over 1 million and the population of the surrounding area is expected to increase by about 10 million. The demands of increasing use by millions of visitors and permanent residents will create mounting pressure and new challenges for land management agencies in the deserts. A mechanism for addressing desert-wide issues was established in 1994 in the form of the Desert Managers Group (DMG), an interagency group that is coordinating and integrating desert conservation, visitor services, and public safety efforts in the California deserts.

Partners involved with the DMG include the State of California (Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, and Caltrans), the Department of Defense (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps), the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Geological Survey), and the U.S. Forest Service. In January 2005, the 8 counties in the California desert were invited to join the DMG. More information on the DMG, including the Group's charter, organization, and current events is available at [www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov).

The purpose of this document is to 1) summarize the accomplishments of the DMG in fiscal year 2004, and 2) describe the goals and objectives established by the DMG for fiscal years 2005-2009. This document was approved by the DMG at its regular meeting on January 13, 2005. As with all crosscutting multi-agency efforts, performance is dependent on the availability of adequate funds and staff for each agency to actively participate in these efforts.

## **2.0 FY 04 Accomplishments**

DMG accomplishments for FY 04 are summarized below.

### ***Goal 1. Restore selected upland and riparian habitats identified for restoration.***

- A. DMG agencies actively participated in the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA). Major activities focused on developing a plan for inventorying invasive species (tamarisk) and implementing control measures in the Mojave River.

- B. The DMG hosted a restoration workshop that was attended by 53 scientists and restoration specialists from various Federal, state and local agencies and universities. The workshop focused on new/current restoration techniques, sources of labor and material for restoration activities, effectiveness monitoring, and potential partnership opportunities for conducting restoration efforts.
- C. The DMG, in cooperation with the Mojave Weed Management Area, conducted scoping meetings to determine the feasibility of establishing a Low Desert Weed Management Area. The Low Desert Resource Conservation District volunteered to become the lead agency for the effort. Work will continue in FY 05 to establish a Low Desert Weed Management Area.
- D. The DMG developed and finalized a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for interested DMG members to participate in conservation and restoration efforts for the San Felipe Creek – San Sebastian Marsh Watershed. The MOA is currently circulating among DMG member agencies for signature.
- E. The DMG developed a draft “*California Desert Riparian Challenge: A Strategic Plan for Restoration of Riparian Habitats in the California Deserts.*” The riparian challenge establishes desert-wide priorities for 17 landscapes/watersheds, identifies funding requirements and priorities, and articulates best management practices for riparian habitat restoration.

***Goal 2. Cleanup and restore illegal dumps that pose a public health or environmental threat, and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping in the future.***

- A. The DMG, Riverside County, and others hosted an Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop (IDEW) in Palm Springs in April 2004. Over 100 people from interested agencies participated in the meeting. Another IDEW event is being scheduled for San Bernardino County in FY 05.

***Goal 3. Recover the desert tortoise in the California recovery units.***

- A. USGS initiated a study on behalf of the DMG to evaluate the effectiveness of desert tortoise recovery actions related to vehicle management, cattle and sheep grazing, and construction of tortoise fences. A total of 395 documents were obtained and reviewed. A first draft of the study report will be available for peer/agency review in early 2005.
- B. The DMG worked with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop a strategy for implementation of desert tortoise recovery actions and to revise the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Elements of the strategy include:
  - 1. FWS will establish a Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) consisting of a DT Recovery Coordinator and three local field coordinators.
  - 2. FWS will empanel a Desert Tortoise Science Advisory Committee (SAC) to serve in an advisory role to the DTRO and DMG.

3. FWS will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a master database for all desert tortoise data.
  4. The DMG will form a Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Planning Work Group to work directly with the DTRO and the SAC to develop and implement Recovery Action Plans for each desert tortoise recovery unit in California. The Recovery Action Plans will be included in the FWS revision of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.
- C. The DMG participated in, and provided input to, the USFWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment Committee, which conducted a scientific review of the 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.
- D. The DMG successfully secured funding and developed several partnerships to implement a multifaceted education and outreach campaign aimed at increasing public support of and involvement in desert tortoise recovery in California. Funding was secured to implement the first phase of the project from the California OHV Commission, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). In addition, the Defenders of Wildlife received a grant to support their active participation in the project. Joshua Tree National Park will lead the project on behalf of the DMG.
- E. DMG agencies executed an MOU to develop an environmental assessment to implement a raven management plan throughout the California deserts. The environmental assessment will be prepared in FY 05 with on-the-ground implementation in FY 06.
- F. The DMG, in cooperation with local animal control agencies, initiated a survey to determine the scope and severity of the threat to wildlife and human safety posed by feral and uncontrolled dogs in the desert.

***Goal 4. Reduce and maintain burro populations to appropriate management levels and in appropriate locations.***

- A. 435 burros and 2 horses were removed from BLM, NPS and DOD lands throughout the California deserts in FY 04. BLM removed 229 burros from the Centennial, Slate, Panamint and Clark Mountain Herd Management Areas (HMAs). 206 burros were removed from the Mojave National Preserve.
- B. BLM collected vegetation monitoring data from the Chemehuevi, Chocolate-Mule Mountain and Chicago Valley HMAs.
- C. 398 burros and wild horses were adopted in the California Desert District; 261 were adopted directly from the Ridgecrest Corrals.

***Goal 5. Protect cultural resources and enhance public awareness of the sensitivity and value of paleontological and cultural resources in the California deserts.***

- A. The Proceedings for *The Millennium Conference: human journey and ancient life in the California deserts* were finalized and printed. Distribution will occur in FY 05.
- B. The DMG and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) reached agreement on a plan for completing the Mojave Desert Historical Resources GIS, originally scheduled for delivery in FY 2001. The SHPO committed to complete the project in as short a time as is feasible. Delivery of the system will likely take place in the fall of 2005.
- C. The DMG co-sponsored the Native American Lands Conservancy Sacred Lands Conference. The conference was attended by about 100 participants and included presentations that offered both Native American and government agency perspectives on sacred lands.
- D. The DMG sponsored a basic Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) class for law enforcement and cultural resources staff in Twentynine Palms on November 8-10, 2004. About 35 people attended the three day training session which combined class lectures on ARPA law with a hands-on practical crime scene experience in the field.
- E. The DMG sponsored an advanced ARPA training class for cultural resource specialists on January 26-30, 2004 at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). Thirteen people from DMG member agencies attended the five day training session. The course provided hands-on training in archaeological damage assessment.

***Goal 6. DMG agencies will strive to understand and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts in each agency's mission.***

- A. Through regular DMG meetings and related activities, DMG agencies gained a greater appreciation of each agency's mission and programs.

***Goal 7. Develop a coordinated interagency system for delivering useful, comprehensive and consistent information about desert resources and recreation opportunities.***

- A. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) maintained the California deserts website, [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov), which provides one stop shopping for information on recreation sites and opportunities in the California deserts. DMG agencies provided new information that was added to the site.
- B. DMG agencies and San Bernardino County designed and produced interpretive exhibits/posters for use in Caltrans roadside rest areas in the California deserts. The exhibits/posters will be installed in FY 05.

- C. DMG agencies and San Bernardino County raised the funds necessary to hire a consultant to design the environmental exhibits at the Valley Wells Rest Area on Interstate -15, 40 miles north of Baker. Caltrans secured a \$1.3 million grant to construct the exhibits in 2006.
- D. California State Parks operated and maintained the interagency “gateway” visitor center at Lancaster, California.

***Goal 8. Coordinate scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.***

- A. The DMG co-sponsored the Mojave Desert Science Symposium in November 2004 at the University of Redlands. The symposium consisted of presentations and poster sessions covering four themes (Threats to the Mojave Desert, Ecosystem Monitoring, Natural Recovery or Active Restoration, and Scales and Sustainability). Approximately 200 people attended the conference with approximately 60 poster presentations were displayed.
- B. DMG agencies participated in the NPS “Vital Signs” workshop held May 25-27, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Workshop resulted in the selection of vital signs indicating ecosystem health. The results are available in the “Vital Signs Workshop” report found on the DMG website.

***Goal 9. Monitor desert tortoise population status in relation to recovery goals for the California deserts’ recovery units.***

- A. DMG agencies supported implementation of rangewide desert tortoise monitoring to establish a population baseline and evaluate whether tortoise populations are increasing, remaining stable, or declining. In FY 04, over 6,500 kms of transects were sampled.

***Goal 10. Inventory, monitor, and protect desert water resources.***

- A. Protocols for inventorying the hydrological and biological characteristics and quality of desert springs were finalized by the Desert Research Institute. Several DMG offices are currently utilizing the protocols to monitor springs within their jurisdictions.
- B. DOI agency executives and managers held the first Amargosa River Summit in October 2003 and developed and executed a Memorandum of Agreement to work cooperatively to manage and protect water resources in the Amargosa Basin. Parties to the agreement include BLM (CA and NV), FWS, NPS, and USGS. The DOI coordination group also initiated discussions with Nye County, TNC and others on opportunities to work cooperatively with DOI to manage Amargosa water resources.

***Goal 11. Integrate and share data and database management systems needed for effective resource management and planning.***

- A. The DMG, in coordination with the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP), developed an internet accessible Research Inventory Database. The database, located on the DMG website, contains an inventory of existing resources, research and monitoring studies.
- B. The MDEP maintained its GIS database ([www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov)) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts.

***Goal 12. Ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the DMG and its work groups.***

- A. The DMG updated and finalized its FY 04 Work Plan and accomplishment report in April 2004.
- B. The BLM funded the Natural Resources restoration Coordinator to coordinate implementation of dump cleanup and habitat restoration efforts on behalf of the DMG.
- C. The FWS coordinated tortoise monitoring activities on behalf of the DMG.
- D. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (DOD) redesigned and maintained the DMG website ([www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about the DMG and its work group activities.
- E. The DMG coordinated with the Clark County HCP on the development and implementation of a desert tortoise education and outreach program in California.
- F. The DMG developed and adopted Stakeholder Involvement Guidelines to promote and facilitate constructive stakeholder involvement in the DMG process (see <http://www.dmg.gov/stakeholder.php>).

***Goal 13. Garner support for the DMG, its mission, activities, and funding initiatives.***

- A. Briefings on DMG activities and accomplishment were provided to a variety of government and non-government entities, including the BLM Desert Advisory Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, California Integrated Waste Management Board, Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group, Desert Tortoise Council, and DOI Regional Executives.
- B. The DMG worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Resource Law Group to secure funding for DMG projects and to establish a California Desert Fund.



### 3.0 The 5 Year Work Plan

The 5 Year Work Plan is intended to facilitate internal and external communication about the goals and activities of the DMG and serve as a tool to allow the DMG and its Work Groups to track activities and projects. The 5 Year Work Plan is updated and approved annually by the DMG.

A brief description of the goals and activities for FY 05 – FY 09 are provided below. Fiscal year of activity completion, lead agency, and current activity status are noted in parentheses.

#### ***Goal 1. Restore selected upland and riparian habitats identified for restoration.***

- A. The DMG will work with the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA) to coordinate weed management activities in the Mojave Desert and implement the WMA long-range plan, including assisting the MWMA with coordination of restoration activities in the Mojave River. **(FY 05, BLM, ongoing)**
- B. The DMG will provide information via the DMG's restoration webpage to review new/current restoration techniques, sources of labor and material, partnership opportunities, ongoing restoration projects, and monitoring. **(FY 05, BLM/MDEP, on track)**
- C. A list and status report of ongoing restoration activities in the desert will be compiled and made available through the DMG website. **(FY 05, USGS/MDEP, on track)**
- D. The DMG will provide guidance and recommendations to USGS researchers within the Mojave Desert, including the Recoverability and Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems project, aimed at improving the management applicability of research efforts. **(FY 05, BLM/NPS, ongoing)**
- E. In cooperation with various federal, state and local agencies, the DMG will work with the Low Desert RC&D to establish the Coachella Valley/Southern Desert Weed Management Area (WMA). **(FY 05, BLM/ABDSP/FWS, on track)**
- F. BLM, GS, State Parks and CDFG will implement the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the conservation and restoration of the San Felipe Creek-San Sebastian Marsh Watershed. **(FY 05 BLM/ABDSP, ongoing)**
- G. The DMG will finalize the Riparian Habitat Restoration Challenge for the California Deserts effort, secure grant funding, and implement the following high priority riparian restoration projects:
  - 1. Amargosa River
  - 2. San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek
  - 3. Mojave River

4. Dos Palmas
  5. East Mojave Desert
- (FY 05, BLM/NPS/CDFG/ABDSP, on track)**

- H. The DMG will support NPS efforts to update and reprint the Beginners Guide to Upland Habitat Restoration. **(FY 05, NPS/USGS, funding dependent)**
- I. The DMG will sponsor and conduct Introductory Wilderness Training for non-wilderness professionals at various DMG office locations throughout the California deserts. **(FY 05, BLM/NPS/USFS/USMC)**

***Goal 2. Clean up and restore illegal dumps that pose a public health or environmental threat, and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping in the future.***

- A. The illegal dump database will be maintained and high priority sites will be identified for cleanup based on threats to public health, safety or the environment. A report of priority dumpsites will be provided to the managers. **(FY 05, BLM/NPS, dependent on staff support)**
- B. The DMG will clean up and restore illegal dumps by leveraging budgets with grants and partnerships, and sponsoring community/volunteer illegal dump cleanups on public lands. **(FY 05, BLM, ongoing)**
- C. The DMG will coordinate and implement actions to prevent illegal dumping in the California deserts. The DMG's focus will be on:
1. Sponsoring an illegal dumping enforcement workshop (IDEW) in San Bernardino County;
  2. Implementing a 1-800 number to report incidents of littering;
  3. Cooperating with state and local government to increase the awareness of illegal dumping and its environmental consequences, create prevention solutions, and improve illegal dumping laws.
- (FY 05, BLM, on track)**
- D. The Hazmat Work Group will provide information to the Raven Work Group/EA team concerning solid waste disposal as needed/requested. **(FY 05, BLM, on track)**

***Goal 3. Recover the desert tortoise in the California recovery units.***

- A. USGS will finalize and distribute their report on the Effectiveness of Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions. **(FY 05, GS, on track)**
- B. FWS will establish a Desert Tortoise Science Advisory Committee to provide scientific guidance to the DTRO, the DMG and other tortoise recovery and monitoring activities. **(FY 05, FWS, on track)**

- C. FWS will establish an in-house repository for all desert tortoise data via an MOU. The MOU will outline protocols for the structure and maintenance of the data repository and accessing data in the repository. **(FY 05, FWS, on track)**
- D. As a condition of any new or renewed Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or California Endangered Species Act (CESA) research permit, the FWS DTRO and CDFG will require all agencies/institutions/researchers to abide by established data management protocols and submit to the desert tortoise data repository a brief annual report along with a complete copy of their field data. **(FY 05, FWS/DFG, on track)**
- E. The DMG will implement a multifaceted education and outreach campaign aimed at increasing public support of the involvement in desert tortoise recovery in California. Required actions include:
  - 1. Hire Tortoise Outreach Coordinator **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
  - 2. Media campaign
    - a. Radio PSAs **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
    - b. Media kit **(FY 06-07, NPS)**
    - c. News releases **(FY 05-08, NPS)**
    - d. Television PSAs/programming **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
    - e. Desert Tortoise Summit **(FY 06, NPS)**
    - f. Media Field Days **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
  - 3. Desert tortoise education component **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
  - 4. Desert tortoise newsletter **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
  - 5. Desert tortoise color brochure **(FY 05-07, NPS)**
  - 6. Public attitude and effectiveness study **(FY 05-08, NPS)**
  - 7. Raven management **(FY 05-06, Defenders of Wildlife)**
  - 8. Desert tortoise website **(FY 05-08, MDEP)**
  - 9. Desert tortoise merchandise **(FY 05-08, Joshua Tree NP Association)**
- F. The DMG will complete appropriate NEPA compliance and secure the necessary permits required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to implement a raven management program in the California deserts. **(FY 05, FWS, on track)**
- G. The DMG, cooperation with the University of Redlands, USGS and interested stakeholders, will initiate an inventory of raven nests. **(FY 05, all)**
- H. The DMG will implement raven management actions in selected Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), critical habitat, and/or NPS units. **(FY 05, FWS, funding dependent)**
- I. The DMG, in cooperation with local animal control agencies, will report the results of the feral dog survey and develop a Feral Dog Management Plan. The plan will articulate control/management measures, a method for assessing the effectiveness of control/management measures, and provide an agreed upon implementation timeline. **(FY 05, CDFG, funding dependent)**

- J. Develop a Coordinated Desert Tortoise Headstarting and Translocation Plan. **(FY 05, DOD/USGS/FWS/CDFG, ongoing)**
- K. The DMG will identify and implement actions to help control the spread of disease and allow for collection of information that will lead to a better understanding of diseases that affect desert tortoise. **(FY 06, no lead, funding dependent)**
- L. The DMG will develop recovery action plans for desert tortoise recovery units in the California deserts that identify and cost share high priority DT recovery, monitoring, and research action. **(FY 05, DT Implementation and Planning Work Group/FWS, on track)**
- M. The DMG will explore and identify opportunities for increasing funding to support DT recovery and effectiveness monitoring. **(FY 05, DMG Ad hoc work group, on track)**

***Goal 4. Reduce and maintain burro populations to appropriate management levels and in appropriate locations.***

- A. BLM, FWS, DOD and the State will continue work to reduce burro populations to appropriate management levels (AML); NPS will work to eliminate burros entirely from Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve. **(FY 05, BLM/NPS, on track)**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of Animals (Cooperating Agencies)</u>
Clark Mountain	150 burros (BLM, NPS)
Centennial	50 burros (BLM, NAWS, NPS)
Slate Range	20 burros (BLM, NAWS)
Chocolate-Mule Mtn	20 burros (BLM, State Parks)
Panamints	30 burros (BLM, NPS)
Mojave NPS	200 burros (BLM, NPS)
Outside HMAs	30 burros (BLM, NPS, others)
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 Burros</b>

***Goal 5. Protect cultural resources and enhance public awareness of the sensitivity and value of paleontological and cultural resources in the California deserts.***

- A. Complete development of a functional Mojave Desert Historical Resources GIS (MDHRGIS); provide DMG agency training on use of the system. **(FY 05, OHP/PACRAT, on track)**
- B. Develop an MDHRGIS implementation plan to be executed upon delivery of the system by the California Office of Historic Preservation in the fall of 2005. **(FY 05, PACRAT/MDEP, on track)**

- C. The DMG will provide support for the Three Corners Conference, a one-day archaeological meeting to be held at UNLV on October 15, 2005. **(FY 05, PACRAT, on track)**
- D. The DMG will conduct the first annual 2-day PACRAT Workshop, designed as a forum for sharing new information/methods and identifying high priority regional research questions, during the summer of 2005. **(FY 05, PACRAT, on track)**
- E. The DMG will seek funding to create/update general overviews, including the ethnography, rock art, and historic and prehistoric archaeology, of the California deserts. **(FY 06, PACRAT)**
- F. The DMG will create a means for disseminating information on new archaeological/paleontological work in the desert through short (abstract length) written discussions utilizing the DMG website. **(FY 05, PACRAT/MDEP)**
- G. The DMG will develop an annual outreach program that contributes to other statewide events during California Archaeology Week. **(FY 06, PACRAT)**
- H. The DMG will devote effort towards scoping and implementing consistent regional standards in archaeological recording and reporting. **(FY 06, PACRAT)**
- I. The DMG will consider organizing a session on desert archaeology, ethnography, and cultural resources management for presentation at the Society for California Archaeology's Annual Meeting. **(FY 05, PACRAT)**

***Goal 6. DMG agencies will strive to understand and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts in each agency's mission.***

- A. Each agency will actively consider DMG partner agency mission requirements in their land and resource management and planning activities and analyze/consider potential impacts of their proposed land management decisions/actions on other agencies. **(Ongoing)**

***Goal 7. Develop a coordinated interagency system for delivering useful, comprehensive and consistent information about desert resources and recreation opportunities.***

- A. The California deserts website, [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov), will be maintained by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). **(Ongoing, MDEP, on track)**
- B. Agency webmasters will input information on recreation opportunities and sites in the California deserts on [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov) and update their information as needed. **(Ongoing, agency webmasters, on track)**
- C. DMG agencies will install interpretive exhibits at Caltrans roadside rest areas in the California deserts. **(FY 05, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/BLM/MDEP, on track)**

- D. DMG agencies (Caltrans, State Parks, NPS, BLM, MDEP) and San Bernardino County will complete the preliminary design for the exhibits at the Valley Wells rest area. **(FY 05, NPS/MOJA, on track)**
- E. Construct and maintain the environmental exhibits at the Valley Wells rest area. **(FY 06-07, Caltrans, on track)**
- F. Maintain and operate the interagency “gateway” visitor center at Lancaster, California. **(Ongoing, State Parks, on track)**
- G. Assess the feasibility and scope of establishing national scenic byways on selected routes in the California desert. **(FY 05, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/Counties, on track)**

***Goal 8. Coordinate scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.***

- A. Selected papers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mojave Desert Science Symposium will be written up and published. **(FY 05, NPS, on track)**
- B. Continue to support desert tortoise monitoring (Goal 9). **(FY 05+, FWS, ongoing)**
- C. Coordinate the development of standard protocols for monitoring of climate and precipitation patterns in the desert. **(FY 05-06, USGS, ongoing)**
- D. Develop a framework or conceptual model to tie multiple agency efforts together across desert ecosystems and jurisdictional boundaries. **(FY 05, NPS, on track)**
- E. Mine existing data on high priority monitoring needs. **(FY 05-06, NPS/USGS/CDFG/BLM/DOD, ongoing)**
- F. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain and update the web accessible Research Inventory Database. An inventory of existing resources, research and monitoring studies will be initiated to populate the database. Managers will implement protocols to encourage scientists to input data and/or update the database. **(FY 05, NPS, on track)**

***Goal 9. Monitor desert tortoise population status in relation to recovery goals for the California deserts’ recovery units.***

- A. Continue Line Distance Transect sampling to assess desert tortoise density, habitat quality, and threats. **(FY 05-09, FWS/MDEP, on track)**
- B. Sample selected desert tortoise Permanent Study Plots (PSP) in California. **(FY 05-09, FWS, funding dependent/on hold)**

- C. FWS will identify opportunities to integrate LDS and PSP efforts to:
  - 1. Produce the best data in the most cost effective manner possible;
  - 2. Provide a method by which managers can prioritize funding for PSPs and LDS. **(FY 05-09, FWS, on hold)**
- D. Publish a report of desert tortoise LDS monitoring results for FYs 01-04. **(FY 05, FWS, on track)**
- E. The DOD Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will coordinate with the FWS to develop a single master database for all desert tortoise data. MDEP will transition all of its desert tortoise data to the master database. **(FY 05-08, FWS/MDEP, on track)**

***Goal 10. Inventory, monitor, and protect desert water resources***

- A. Use DMG endorsed Level 1 spring survey protocols to inventory/characterize springs/wetlands in the deserts. **(FY 05-07, NPS/BLM/DOD, funding dependent)**
- B. Develop a web accessible database for spring and wetland data. **(FY 07-08, MDEP, on hold)**
- C. DOI agencies (BLM, FWS, GS and NPS) will continue to work cooperatively to manage and protect water resources in the Amargosa Basin pursuant to the January 2004 MOA. Priority emphasis will be on:
  - 1. encouraging the NV State Engineer to require meters on all existing water uses in the basin; **(FY 05, NPS, on track)**
  - 2. developing a GIS map of the DOI areas of concern and the critical water and water dependent resources; **(FY 05, BLM-NV, on track)**
  - 3. developing a coordinated interagency groundwater monitoring plan; **(FY 05, GS, on track)**
  - 4. securing funding to support maintenance of the USGS Regional Groundwater model and application of the model to address DOI agency needs; **(FY 05,GS, on track)**
  - 5. exploring the feasibility of an agreement between DOI agencies and Nye County re: protesting water right applications in the Amargosa Basin; **(FY 05, NPS, on track)**
- D. Assess the scope and feasibility of a DMG sponsored workshop or conference to bring attention the importance of and strategies for protecting water in the desert. **(FY 05, NPS, GS, BLM, DOD, on track)**

***Goal 11. Integrate and share data and database management systems needed for effective resource management and planning.***

- A. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain its GIS database (**[www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov)**) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts. **(FY 05, MDEP, on track.)**

***Goal 12. Ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the DMG and its work groups.***

- A. The DMG will review, update and renew the DMG Charter and MOU to reflect current priorities and policies. **(FY 05/06, DOD/DOI Coordinators, on track)**
- B. Update the DMG Work Plan to reflect FY 05 priorities and FY 04 accomplishments. Detailed annual work plans will be developed for specific initiatives as needed. **(FY 05, DOD/DOI Coordinators, on track)**
- C. The BLM Natural Resources Restoration Coordinator will coordinate implementation of dump clean up and habitat restoration efforts on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 05, BLM, on track)**
- D. The FWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) will coordinate implementation of various tortoise monitoring, research and recovery activities on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 05, FWS, on track)**
- E. MDEP will maintain the DMG website (**[www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)**) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about DMG and work group activities. **(FY 05, MDEP, on track)**
- F. The DMG will coordinate its desert tortoise activities with the Clark County HCP and the SNPLMA Conservation Initiative where there is program overlap. **(FY 05, DOI, on track)**
- G. DMG member agencies will provide incentives/time for appropriate staff to attend and actively participate in standing and ad hoc DMG work groups. **(FY 05, Managers, ongoing)**
- H. DMG member agency Managers will participate in and provide management guidance to standing DMG work groups.
  - 1. PACRAT (**Thomsen, Wood and Reynolds**)
  - 2. HAZMAT (**Trost**)
  - 3. DT Information and Education (**Sauer, Black**)
  - 4. DT Planning and Implementation Work Group (**Williams, Martin, Black**) **(FY 05, all DMG agencies, on track)**



***Goal 13. Garner support for the DMG, its mission, activities, and funding initiatives.***

- A. DMG representatives will brief federal and state agencies, Congressional representatives, and interested parties about DMG activities and initiatives, as requested. **(FY 05-09, DOD/DOI, on track.)**
- B. The DMG will cooperate with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to secure funding for DMG initiatives and establish a California Deserts Conservation Fund. **(FY 05, DOI, ongoing.)**

Figure 1

